

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 10338 041703Z

72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-11 INR-10

LAB-06 NSAE-00 RSC-01 SIL-01 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03

NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /195 W

----- 026562

R 041543Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1975

INFO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

AMEMBASSY ASUNCION

AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES

AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

AMEMBASSY LIMA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB

SUBJECT: CHILEAN GUILD LEADERS EXPELLED FROM VENEZUELA

REF: SANTIAGO 5661

1. CHILEAN GUILD LEADERS TEAM HEADED BY LEON VILLARIN,

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PAGE 02 CARACA 10338 041703Z

PRESIDENT OF THE NATIONAL TRUCK OWNERS CONFEDERATION, WHICH

HAD ARRIVED IN CARACAS ON DECEMBER 1, WAS EXPELLED FROM VENEZUELA DECEMBER 3 BY ORDER OF THE GOV. JUST AS VILLARIN WAS ABOUT TO GIVE A NOON PRESS CONFERENCE AT HIS HOTEL TO EXPLAIN "THE TRUE SITUATION IN CHILE AND THE JUSTIFICATION OF THE OVERTHROW OF THE ALLENDE GOVERNMENT," THE POLICE BURST IN, STOPPED THE PRESS CONFERENCE, AND HUSTLED THE TEAM TO WAITING POLICE CARS, WHICH TRANSPORTED THE CHILEANS TO MAIQUETIA, WHERE THEY WERE PUT ABOARD THE FIRST AVAILABLE AIR TRANSPORTATION OUT OF THE COUNTRY, REPORTEDLY TO SANTO DOMINGO. GOV SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED A STATEMENT THAT "IT WARNED A GROUP OF FOREIGNERS, OF CHILEAN NATIONALITY, THAT IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE TO DEAL WITH MATTERS WHICH CONCERNED THE DOMESTIC POLITICS OF OTHER COUNTRIES DURING THE VENEZUELAN ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN" AND THAT AS A RESULT THE GROUP'S PRESS CONFERENCE HAD BEEN PROHIBITED. "CONSEQUENTLY," THE STATEMENT ADDED, "THE REASON FOR THESE GENTLEMEN TO STAY IN VENEZUELA CEASED, AND THEY WERE GIVEN EVERY FACILITY TO LEAVE THE COUNTRY, WHICH THEY DID SHORTLY BEFORE 3 P.M."

2. COMMENT: THE ABRUPT EXPULSION OF THE CHILEAN LABOR LEADERS, WHICH IS RECEIVING WIDE PUBLICITY, WAS PROBABLY MOTIVATED BY THE CALDERA ADMINISTRATION'S DESIRE TO RECOUP SOME OF THE ELECTORAL LOSSES IT FEELS THE COPEI PARTY SUFFERED BY CALDERA'S RAPID RECOGNITION OF THE MILITARY JUNTA WHICH OVERTHREW ALLENDE. THE CAREFULLY-STAGED ENTRY OF THE POLICE TO STOP VILLARIN'S PRESS CONFERENCE INDICATES THAT THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT CHOSE TO LET THE TEAM ENTER THE COUNTRY SO THAT IT COULD REAP MAXIMUM PUBLICITY FROM A DRAMATIC GESTURE ONCE THE TEAM WAS HERE, RATHER THAN QUIETLY DENY THE CHILEANS VISAS IN THE FIRST PLACE.
MCCLINTOCK

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: EXPULSION, GOVERNMENT OVERTHROW, POLITICAL SITUATION, PRESS CONFERENCES, LABOR UNION OFFICIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: hilburpw
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973CARACA10338
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: CARACAS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731247/aaaabiro.tel
Line Count: 90
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: SANTIAGO 5661
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hilburpw
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 24 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <24-Sep-2001 by hilburpw>; APPROVED <24-Sep-2001 by hilburpw>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CHILEAN GUILD LEADERS EXPELLED FROM VENEZUELA
TAGS: ELAB, PINS, VE, CI, (VILLARIN, LEON)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005